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April 2, 2013

Please visit <http://www.maddyinstitute.org/news/maddy-daily> if you want to view the *Maddy Daily* with our comprehensive list of links to all federal, state and local government, public affairs institutes/regional entities, Valley media and public policy blogs.

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Maddy Events

Maddy Report -- Valley Views Edition: Guests Phil Isenberg, chair of the Delta Stewardship Council, and Dale Hoffman-Floerke, deputy director of Delta and Statewide Water Management for the California Department of Water Resources, discuss Delta issues with Maddy Institute Executive Director Mark Keppler. The show airs on Newstalk 580 KMJ Sunday, April 7, from 9-10 a.m.

Maddy Report: "The Delta: Fixing California's Water Faucet" – Guests Phil Isenberg, chair of the Delta Stewardship Council, and Dale Hoffman-Floerke, deputy director of Delta and Statewide Water

Management for the California Department of Water Resources, discuss Delta issues with Maddy Institute Executive Director Mark Keppler. The show airs on KVPT (ValleyPBS) Friday, April 5, at 7 p.m.

Maddy Report: "California Retrospective: A Conversation with George Skelton" – Long-time Los Angeles Times political columnist George Skelton joins Maddy Institute Executive Director Mark Keppler to discuss California policy and politics. The show airs on KSEE24 (NBC Fresno) Sunday, April 7, at 5:30 a.m.

The Maddy Report airs throughout California on The Cal Channel. Check <http://www.calchannel.com> to find the Cal Channel and schedule in your area. You can also view previous Maddy Report programs in their entirety at <http://www.maddyinstitute.org/policy-analysis/the-maddy-report-tv>.

Maddy Institute Updates List of San Joaquin Valley Elected Officials – The Maddy Institute has updated its list of San Joaquin Valley elected officials. The list is available [here](#).

Maddy Institute on Facebook and Twitter – To learn about Maddy Institute activities (e.g. *The Maddy Report* tv show, *The Maddy Associates' Luncheons*, the *Maddy Legislative Intern Program*), become a fan of the Maddy Institute on Facebook or log on to <http://twitter.com/MaddyInstitute>. And if you have a Facebook or Twitter account, please add us and follow us!

Political Briefs

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Top stories

Dan Walters: Reservoirs should stay in water bond -- However it's done and however it's financed, improving the reliability of California's vital water supply through more storage makes sense now and will make even more sense if, as many believe, more of our precipitation falls as rain, rather than snow, due to global warming. [Walters column in Sacramento Bee](#)

California regulators consider regulation, taxing ammunition – Gun control advocates in Sacramento are putting a new twist on an old NRA slogan: "Guns don't kill people -- bullets kill people." Democratic lawmakers are pushing like never before to regulate or tax ammunition sales. They say the logic is

simple: A firearm is nothing but an expensive paperweight without ammunition. [San Jose Mercury News article](#)

Other areas

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Sacramento Bee: 'Gang of Eight' needs to deliver immigration fix – The business-labor compromise marks real progress if senators don't use it as an opportunity to delay or derail the larger effort to fix our obsolete immigration system. [Sacramento Bee editorial](#)

High-skill visa demand surges as Congress debates reform -- The biggest surge in five years of applicants for America's temporary H-1B visas for skilled foreign workers began this week just as U.S. senators are finishing work on an immigration overhaul that could reshape the high technology workforce. [Contra Costa Times article](#)

Border agency halts furlough plan – The U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency is pulling back on its plan to furlough agents and slash overtime. Deputy Commissioner Thomas Winkowski told workers Monday morning that the agency for now is postponing planned furloughs of up to 14 days and a ban on overtime. [U-T San Diego article](#)

Firearms advocates target gun-control measures – Gun-control measures that seemed destined to become law after the school shootings in Newtown, Conn., are in jeopardy amid a fierce lobbying campaign by firearms advocates. [Washington Post article](#)

Speaker's top aide pitches Medi-Cal bill from his hospital bed -- [Greg Campbell](#) is raising standards for dedication to his job as chief of staff to Speaker John A. Pérez after using a get-well call from Gov. Jerry Brown as a way to pitch his boss's Medi-Cal expansion bill. [Capitol Alert](#)

Paul Krugman: Lessons from a comeback – After all, California's political story — in which a radicalized G.O.P. fell increasingly out of touch with an increasingly diverse and socially liberal electorate, and eventually found itself marginalized — is arguably playing out with a lag on the national scene too. So is California still the place where the future happens first? Stay tuned. [Krugman in New York Times](#)

Supreme Court rejects call to change voting district head counts – The Supreme Court has rejected a conservative challenge to the common practice of counting everyone, not just U.S. citizens, when adjusting the size of voting districts across the nation. [LA Times article](#)

Lobbyist and Capitol chief of staff to join Mercury Public Affairs -- Mercury Public Affairs' Sacramento team is set to grow, with a well-known state lobbyist and a state Senate chief of staff joining the staff roster. The public and governmental affairs firm is announcing this week the hiring of lobbyist Duncan McFetridge and Adam Keigwin, chief of staff and political consultant to state Sen. Leland

Yee. [Capitol Alert](#)

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News Briefs

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Top Issue: Jobs and the Economy

Judge agrees: Stockton is broke -- Stockton is eligible for bankruptcy protection, a federal judge ruled Monday, saying the city was in fact broke and negotiated with its creditors in good faith last year before seeking Chapter 9 protection. [Stockton Record article](#); [LA Times article](#); [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Ruling sets up pension battle in bankrupt city -- A federal bankruptcy judge ruled on Monday that the city of Stockton, Calif., was eligible for court protection from its creditors, clearing the way for a battle over whether public workers' pensions can be cut when the city they work for goes bankrupt. [New York Times article](#); [NPR report](#); [Bakersfield Californian editorial](#)

Dan Walters Daily: Stockton's sustained slog -- Despite the fact that the Stockton bankruptcy case got a high-profile court ruling on Monday, Dan Walters says the issue could drag on for a long time before it's settled. [Dan Walters Daily in Sacramento Bee](#)

Default looms for Chukchansi casino mired in political fight -- The Chukchansi tribe is in danger of defaulting on its bonds for Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino because of ongoing political bickering between two tribal council factions. Rabobank, which holds about \$12 million in deposits for the Chukchansi Economic Development Authority -- the casino financing agency run by the tribal council -- has frozen a bank account that pays down the bond notes. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Economy sketchy as Fresno gridlock drops -- Traffic congestion in Fresno dropped in February compared to last year, better news for the environment but a sign most economists say isn't great for an economic recovery. [The Business Journal article](#)

Battling billionaires head to N.Y. for showdown on Sacramento Kings -- Dueling teams of billionaires and mayors are heading to [New York](#) for a pivotal Wednesday showdown over the future of the [Sacramento Kings](#). Before an elite committee of NBA owners, delegations from Sacramento and Seattle will present their arguments on the issue that's been making headlines for weeks: Should the Kings stay put or be allowed to move to the Pacific Northwest? [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Law school graduates aren't finding much on the employment docket – Lieberman, who earned his undergraduate degree at UC San Diego, is one of dozens of law graduates across the country who have joined class-action lawsuits, alleging that law schools lured them in with misleading reports of their graduates' success. [LA Times article](#)

Walmart proposes new store off Olive Drive in Kern – Walmart Stores Inc. has proposed building a new Supercenter on vacant land just west of Highway 99 and south of Olive Drive in unincorporated Kern County. At about 194,000 square feet, including parking, it would become the chain's third largest of five stores in Bakersfield, assuming the city annexes the land as proposed. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Salam Nalia: Invest in your backyard – The chief executive officer of Fresno Community Development Financial Institution writes, "This month, Fresno Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) will begin to market microloans to the business community as part of a collaboration between Kiva and the California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunity." [Nalia op-ed in Fresno Bee](#)

Hanford asked to support F-35C bid -- The City Council will consider approving a letter of support for the home-basing of the Navy's F-35C joint strike fighters at Naval Air Station Lemoore at its meeting Tuesday. [Hanford Sentinel article](#)

Silicon Valley start-ups criticize state money transmission law -- California is applying money-transfer laws to high-tech start-ups and others in the business of moving funds, subjecting them to the same strict regulations and heavy scrutiny as financial service companies. And that has some Silicon Valley entrepreneurs crying foul. [LA Times article](#)

California's spending transparency ranks 49th among states -- A group that lobbies for government openness has given California an "F" for spending transparency. The California Public Interest Research Group and its national counterpart, USPIRG, hammer the [Golden State](#) in a report on states' use of web technology to open their books for public scrutiny. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Top Stories

Valley farm water cutbacks: Small cities see food lines again -- With severe irrigation water cutbacks this year, food lines again will form on the San Joaquin Valley's west side and people will suffer, local leaders said Monday. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Migrant program offers lessons for reaching Latino preschoolers -- Long before President Obama triggered a new national interest in universal preschool earlier this year, a Central Valley-based Head Start program for children of migrant workers has been breaking down barriers that have kept Latino families out of early learning programs. [EdSource article](#)

Prisons/Criminal Justice

Assemblyman Cooley calls for tweaks to realignment – Assemblyman Ken Cooley Monday said his bill returning certain drug traffickers to prison to serve long-term sentences is not a challenge to the state's realignment program, but rather is part of a discussion on how to improve the current law. [Capitol Alert](#)

New Stanislaus County juvenile facility built to rehabilitate – Officials are getting ready to open a \$22 million facility designed to rehabilitate young people who are sentenced for criminal offenses. Most of the money to build the Stanislaus County Juvenile Commitment Facility on Blue Gum Avenue came from the government effort to realign juvenile justice in California. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Scanners expected to detect contraband in Kern jails – They are at airports around the world. X-ray body scanners let the Transportation Security Administration see if passengers are hiding anything in their pockets. Now, similar machines are making their way into Kern County Sheriff's Department jails, both the Central Receiving Facility and Lerdo Jail. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Agriculture/Water

Public meeting Thursday on Delta water tunnels – The public is invited to a meeting Thursday in Sacramento on the state's proposal to build two giant water diversion tunnels in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. [Sacramento Bee article](#)

Ellen Hanak: What lies in store for the water bond? – The Public Policy Institute of California's co-director of research and senior fellow writes, "Getting the water bond right is an important item on the current policy agenda, but public policy discussions also need to consider a broader range of funding options to address our critical needs." [Hanak commentary in PPIC](#)

The great water debate – Gov. Jerry Brown's ambitious tunnels designed to ship water partly underground to Southern California would be tall enough to comfortably fit an adult giraffe, wide enough for three freeway lanes and have ample room to carry enough water to serve 35,000 homes on a typical day. [U-T San Diego article](#)

Dry months mounting – Despite all of that rain, hail and lightning, Stockton just emerged from its driest January-through-March period since 1984. [Stockton Record article](#)

Modesto Bee: Oakdale Irrigation District again shows transfer benefits – Once again, the Oakdale Irrigation District is demonstrating how to make the best use of its generous supply of Stanislaus River water, especially in a dry year. [Modesto Bee article](#)

Education

Civil rights, school groups rally to protect Spanish-language testing -- A critical portion of California's 1.4 million English learners face academic setback under a plan to suspend most of the state's student assessments next year, civil rights activists and school advocacy groups say. [EdSource article](#)

College of the Sequoias looks to the future – The message was clear during the College of the Sequoias board study session on Monday: No more personality-driven decisions. The college wishes to set up a process that, even in the turnover of leadership, can create an atmosphere where the wheels will not stop turning, a problem that the college has now, said current Academic Senate president Michele Hester-Reyes. [Visalia Times-Delta article](#)

Brown's K-12 online agenda faces legislative scrutiny – Gov. Jerry Brown drew national attention earlier this year with his embrace of online learning programs and technology-based instruction – both within higher education and K-12 schools. While his digital initiatives continue to enjoy significant support, his plan to rewrite the rules surrounding independent study and allow school districts to collect state attendance funding for asynchronous online instruction may be facing challenges in the Legislature. [SI&A Cabinet Report article](#)

Ripon educators receive lesson on 'critical incidents' -- Teachers and administrators at Ripon High School on Monday received an education on how to handle and prepare for "critical incidents." [Modesto Bee article](#)

Energy/Environment

John Myers: Legislators recycle idea to ban plastic bags -- Legislation to impose a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags cleared its first hurdle Monday, a recycled proposal that's ultimately failed several years running at the State Capitol. [Myers in News10 Sacramento](#)

Edison submits paperwork to fire up San Onofre before summer – [Southern California Edison](#), majority owner of the shuttered San Onofre nuclear plant, submitted to federal regulators a draft request for a license amendment that would allow the plant to be fired back up again before summer. [LA Times article](#)

In Hinkley, toxic legacy sets the stage for ghost town – Nearly 20 years ago, Pacific Gas & Electric paid hundreds of millions of dollars to settle legal claims that it had poisoned the Mojave Desert community of Hinkley by dumping industrial waste into the ground. But that David and Goliath triumph -- portrayed in the movie "Erin Brockovich" -- didn't last. Since then, a plume of groundwater contaminated with toxic chromium-6 has continued to spread, and the town is emptying. [California Report](#)

Health/Human Services

American teens getting early start on heart disease risk, survey says – The proportion of American adolescents who exercise regularly, eat a [healthy diet](#) and are free of risk factors for future [heart disease](#) is "alarmingly low," says a major new survey of [teen health](#). [LA Times article](#)

Insurers see way to dodge federal healthcare law next year – A new fight is brewing over health insurance companies letting millions of Americans renew their current coverage for another year — and thereby avoid changes under the federal healthcare law. [LA Times article](#)

Kevin McCarthy: Holding the VA accountable for a culture of inefficiency – The Valley congressman (R-Bakersfield) writes, "It is clear that the VA needs a comprehensive cultural change that is more results-oriented and respectful of the needs of our veterans. I have requested that the VA report to Congress a plan on how the VA is going to implement the GAO's recommendations and better process claims in a timely manner that ensures accountability and improves outcomes." [McCarthy op-ed in Bakersfield Californian](#)

Advocates warn against shifting of indigent funds – Local health care advocates had a message for state politicians Monday: Keep your hands off money given to counties for indigent health care. [Bakersfield Californian article](#)

Fresno County asks judge to toss \$8.5 million Seth Ireland verdict – Attorneys for Fresno County are asking a judge to throw out a recent verdict that holds Child Protective Services responsible for the fatal beating of 10-year-old Seth Ireland. In documents filed last month in Superior Court, law firm Weakley & Arendt argues that the county had immunity from legal action because California law largely protects social workers from critics who second-guess their decisions. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Lemoore High student diagnosed with tuberculosis – A Lemoore High student has been diagnosed with active tuberculosis and Kings County Health Department officials are identifying others at the school with the most contact with the case. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Need prices for care? Hospitals urge asking – California received a D for the transparency of its health care costs, but local hospital officials said cost information is available to patients when requested. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

California law requires new warning after breast exam – California women who have dense breast tissue will get more information following their routine examinations under a state law that took effect Monday. [AP article](#)

Livingston's first full-service gym opens, raising hope of greater focus on health -- Many residents accustomed to driving as much as a half-hour for a workout now have a local alternative when they want to hit the gym. Livingston Fitness, a full-service gym that opened recently, is viewed as a welcome addition to the city's health and recreation options. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Land Use/Housing

Visalia Times-Delta: Housing help on the way for veterans -- Regardless of which side you find yourself on, it is good to know that veterans in Tulare County are finding resources to help them find their way back to civilian life. And Visalia is about to get two more. [Visalia Times-Delta editorial](#)

Transportation

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Caltrans reviewing whether broken bolts on Bay Bridge failed tests – The [California Department of Transportation](#) said Monday that it was reviewing whether the large bolts that broke last month on the [San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge](#) had failed quality-control tests by the agency's materials lab. [Sacramento Bee article](#); [San Francisco Chronicle article](#)

Merced unveils bike lane project – Merced's push for a more bike-friendly city continues to pick up momentum, as officials roll out a plan to paint bike lanes on about 10 miles of roads. [Merced Sun-Star article](#)

Bob Smith: Bicycle safety innovations finally coming to Bakersfield – The Bakersfield City Council member writes, "Last month, the Community Services Committee of the Bakersfield City Council adopted standards for acceptable bicycle parking in the city of Bakersfield. The required bicycle parking will be both safer and more convenient. These end-of-trip facilities are an important part of the infrastructure required for a complete bicycle transportation system." [Smith op-ed in Bakersfield Californian](#)

Other Areas

Stockton crime-fighting proposals take center stage – Two ambitious crime-fighting plans - one 18 months in the making, the other recently promoted by Stockton's mayor - will be discussed tonight by the City Council. [Stockton Record article](#)

Conference focuses on criminalization of homelessness -- Laws allowing police to ticket and arrest homeless people for sleeping in a car, sitting on the sidewalk — or even leaving their bags on the sidewalk while they use a bathroom — are part of a larger strategy to criminalize homelessness and by extension, poverty, according to attorneys and advocates for homeless people at a conference at the UC Irvine School of Law. [VoiceofOC article](#)

Hmong national conference back in Fresno -- Young Hmong Americans and professionals from across the country will meet in Fresno this weekend to discuss ways to move the ethnic group beyond its refugee roots to tackle problems like poverty and education. [Fresno Bee article](#)

Valley Editorial Roundup

Bakersfield Californian – A federal bankruptcy judge's ruling Monday that Stockton is eligible for bankruptcy protection is welcome news for the troubled San Joaquin Valley city, but it pushes the debate about a municipality's fiscal obligations into [unchartered waters](#); Overly [generous deals](#) are coming home to roost.

Fresno Bee – State has [good options](#) for fixing its parks system.

Merced Sun-Star – California should [consider all options](#) for parks funding.

Modesto Bee – Once again, the Oakdale Irrigation District is demonstrating how to make [the best use of its generous supply](#) of Stanislaus River water, especially in a dry year.

Sacramento Bee – The business-labor compromise marks [real progress](#) if senators don't use it as an opportunity to delay or derail the larger effort to fix our obsolete immigration system; Where is [citizens oversight panel](#) on Sacramento sales tax?

Stockton Record – [Short takes](#) on voter registration, NRA robocalls and other issues.

Visalia Times-Delta – Regardless of which side you find yourself on, it is good to know that veterans in Tulare County are [finding resources](#) to help them find their way back to civilian life. And Visalia is about to get two more.

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Upcoming Events

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• The 2nd annual San Joaquin Regional Economic Forum will be held at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Fresno on Friday, April 26, from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Registration and other information: sjvpartnership.org/ai1ec_event/sjveconomicforum/ or Mike Dozier at (559) 294-6021 or mdozier@csufresno.edu.

• The BlueTechValley Water Conference will be held at Clovis Veterans Memorial District in Clovis on Wednesday, May 1, and Thursday, May 2. More information and registration is available [here](#).

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Interactive

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Next 10: California budget challenge – For the first time in a decade, California's budget is largely in balance. However, the state has outstanding debts of \$28 million, not counting long-term pension and retiree health care costs. Budget choices affect us all. Take the Challenge and decide how much should be spent on programs and where the money should come from. [Next 10 California Budget Challenge](#)

Next 10: Federal budget challenge -- The Federal Budget Challenge is based on The Concord Coalition's Principles and Priorities budget exercise, which has been used in numerous town hall meetings across the country by members of Congress from both parties, as well as in hundreds of high school and college classrooms. Next 10 Federal Budget challenge at www.federalbudgetchallenge.org.

LEGISLATORS' VOTING RECORDS: How often has a California legislator broken party ranks, abstained or switched sides? The Sacramento Bee has a database of the voting records of every member of the state Senate and Assembly. Enter a lawmaker's last and first names to see how he or she voted, or enter a bill number to see how every legislator voted on it. Check it out [at this link](#).
<http://www.sacbee.com/votingrecord/>

The Kenneth L. Maddy Institute at California State University, Fresno was established to honor the legacy of one of California's most principled and effective legislative leaders of the last half of the 20th Century by engaging, preparing and inspiring a new generation of governmental leaders for the 21st Century. Its mission is to inspire citizen participation, elevate government performance, provide non-partisan analysis and assist in providing solutions for public policy issues important to the region, state and nation.

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